

Sadler's Mémoirs :
OR, THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that Famous Thief
THOMAS SADLER.

Giving a True Account of his being Imprisoned
in the Goal of Newgate, and a Relation of
his most Notorious Pranks in City and
Country.

With a particular Description of the manner of
his Robbing the Lord High Chancellor of
England; For which he was Condemned
to Dye, and Executed at Tyburn on
Fryday the Sixteenth of March,

1727.

With Illustrations, By J. E. Swingley.
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Chloroethylene monomer is used in the
synthesis of polyvinylidene chloride.
Polyvinylidene chloride is a polymer
of vinylidene chloride.

2011-01-20

Sadlers Memoires.

OR,

The History of the Life and Death of that Famous

Thief Thomas Sadler,

CHAP. VI.

Of Sadlers Birth and Education.

TO be well descended, doubles the glory of the Virtuous, but increases the shame of the vicious and degenerate ; And in this regard our unhappy Sadler was happy : the scandal of his crimes reach'd little further than his Person ; Though he brought himself to an untimely and ignominious end, yet we cannot say it was any mighty disgrace to his Family, for his birth was so obscure, that we are beholding to Philosophy to prove that ever he had a Father, or had any Relation

lation to some worthy Persons, bearing the same Name, And after a Diligent Inquiry, all the Satisfaction we can obtain, is, that some body, about the Year, 1650. made use of the means to beguile him, and that about Three-Quarters of a Year afterwards he dropt into the World, between Fulham and Hammersmith, in the County of Middlesex. But Hero's seldom are furnished with Prodigies; and if we may Credit common Fame; This Sadlers Mother during her time she was living with him, long'd for a piece of Pork at Brantford-Market, and such as would serve her turn by the most chearful hand that bring a poor Wayman of a very honest principle, she was forced to get a Neighbour to agree with the Butcher to give her private leave to come into his shop. By which strange Extravagant desire, before she gave sufficient Notice of the Inclinations of her Child, she went with it, which in his two months began to stand them selfe upright certainly, and his Parents foreseen that they would have enough of him to arm him somwhat better against his of fleshly Instructing, and his Reading an Account of the Bell 10, t. 1517 P. 38 1573 1576 1577 with

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with; yet never was Master of ; though often al-
low'd the former of his Book, which in the Colledge
of Newgate he learn'd to Cant by Rose, though
in truth he was not able to distinguish a Letter.

C H A P T E R I.

*How Sadler was put to the Trade of Brick-
making, and by what means he came first ac-
quainted with Thieves.*

THE History of our Grand Thief's Child-
hood (like that of the Worlds Infancy)
is either unknown, or wrap up in fables; Some
tuck not so report that at Four Years of Age, he
understood the Profound Mysterie of Pock-
diving, and that before he was Seven Years
Old, none of the Neighbours durst trust their
Poultry for fear of him, without Convoy. But
weaving thole Rumors, which have nothing
to touch for their Credit, but the Idle breath,
and Tattling Sulcitors of the Vulgar. This is
certain, That when he became Capable of Works

ing, he was put forth to the Honest Laborious Trade of Brickmaking; which he followed for two or three years after the Dreadful Fire in Sixty Six, both at Knightsbridge, Soe-hoe, and other places near the Town, and had gain'd the Creditable Reputation of a Civil Industrious Young-man: till happening into the unhappy Acquaintance of a Lewd Woman in St. Gileses, she seduc'd him to the Expence of his Money, and neglect of his business; and brought him acquainted with a Gang of thieves; who observing him to be a brisk bold fellow fit for their turn, soon entred him into their Society; but not till he had given a Notable proof of his Dexterity and aptness for the Calling; which was as follows: This crew had observ'd an old Fellow that kept an Ale-house near Bedford-Bury, and were satisfy'd he had good store of money, but could never understand where he laid it; For at several times they had Jilte'd most of his Closets and Chests, but could not meet with any thing Considerable; Sadler undertakes to discover this Concealed Treasure, and by this Stratagem effects it; Going to Drink there one Evening, he slips up Stairs and sets the Hangings on Fire; pre-

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sently the Alarum is given, and he pretends to be one of the foremost in quenching it, though in truth all his business was to watch the old Dads Motions, whom he observ'd to run very surprizedly to the house of Office up three pair of Stairs; The Combustion was quickly over, without much Damage at present, though the Consequence was losse enough; For three or four Nights after, Sodier and his Confederates get into the House, and takeing up the Boards of the House of Office, under the seat find a kind of Cupboard, and therein three Hundred Bound Baggs, plentifully cramb'd with ready White; and conceiving it very unfit such Precious Metal should be laid up so slovenly, took speedy care to remove it to a better Lodging; leaving in the place nothing but a small pair of Horns, and a large Hause, which being discover'd about a Month after by the Reverend Miser, he decently made use of the last; nor being willing to be at the charge of keeping his Soul after he had lost his Money; Whilist in the mean time Sodiers Ingenuity was much applauded by his Accomplices, and thenceforwards they all look'd upon him as a very hopeful Brother.

Chap.

C H A P T E R III.

*How Sadler having committed Burglary, strange-
ly made his Escape like a Ghost.*

B eing thus flushed and Sealed up Ro-
guery, he was fit to attempt any mis-
chief; By I know not what Hellish Intelligence
he was inform'd of a great Quantity of Money,
Plate, and Riches in a Houle in St. Martin in
the Fields; but it was so notably fortified with
stout Locks, strong Bolts, able Window-shuts,
&c. That he could not by the Mediation of
Mistress Betty, the aid of Monsieur Le Crown, nor
any the like Common Arts, force an entrance;
whereupon resolving to effect this Inchanted
Cattle whate'er it cost him, he takes a Loo-
ing at the next Door, and in the Night gets
on the Top of the designed houle, and with
a Rope lets himself down the Chimney into a
Garret; then Rummaging what Coster he
thought fit and pretty well Loaded with Plate
and other portable Goods of Value, he sum-
mers up his pocket and looks all over within as if
he had been there before.

pains to the Drdr., but peradives there was no
getting forth; For the Master of the Hoise
alwayes spakke his wch chyldes caried up unto
his Chamber stode people byt Spayre agyn
the gare. During the same of summe Worrow;
he made such a noise that he wakened some
of the Faistlye to seyn that whyle he wakened
synthe dror wch he Ouercom. That he wakened
him to do hys knyghty necessite all the daye that this
owne Natural knyghtyngesse suggested a Device;
whiche was to bring from Lymbergh the Tarka
Chylde of Dror, who dwelt in Shetall of Arctans,
and syrably walk into the Gartemont Chambre,
who was ready with Swerd and Riffel to reme
him; but at his approach he shewed hym selfe a Spayre
one for syghting like þe þe could not make out of
lithen of them; so that Saffron wch therfore
intropition myndid þe him to be a knyght
Hewman, so he let hym shew hym selfe, so shewing
the Spayre he shew hym selfe to be a knyght
and shew hym selfe to be a knyght, þe he shew hym
selfe to be a knyght, þe he shew hym selfe to be a
Smythe þe he shew hym selfe to be a knyght
þe he shew hym selfe to be a knyght.

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Year

wond. And when he was by his full strength
left home. Since he had no other place to go he
continued walking about from town to city very
wanderly, and so at length he came to a certain
city called Eboracum of the Britons, which they
call York. There he found a school of grammar
and rhetoric where he began to study and fell
thoroughly in love with the Latin tongue. Then he
began to speak it and all their president
and teachers were amazed at his eloquence
and his manner of speaking. They sent him to
Corduba in Spain to be educated further.
For there he was to have been taught the
law of the Romans and to all the subtlety of the
language of the Moors. But he went in England
and so did he to Gaul and Italy. And when he
had learned all these things he returned
to Britain and became a teacher of the Latin
language in the city of York.

¶ But when he had no other advantage of
learning Latin he began to study the
Greek tongue. And he learned grecian literature
as well as the Latin. And he did it so well
that he could easily interpret any thing written
in either language. And he gave himself
the name of Magius, which may be interpreted
thus (magis) (magis) (magis) (magis) (magis) (magis)

(umph) was none of the least remarkable. Now
Hearing of a kind of a Doctor of a good E-
state above Hogden, therefor he went to him in the
arts of Medicine, hee sent him an good
part like a Country Gentleman, and tell him
of his misfortune, & howe hee had friend and
relation of his countrymen did him no good
and advised him to goe to a Doctor for help.
The Doctor inquire about the party
was taken ; Upon which Soddy told him of his
misfortune, that hee was nowe but only worth
a little idellnes, and obayed that hee had lost his
prospects from losynge his inheritance, and
the Workes, & Employments, cheareallong the King of
Plate and Money, and with great people hee got it
soe sudden, that hee could not pay him off, and soe
Mr. Doctor for Twenty Chirnicks would un-
derstande to have him a childe, and to bring him the
water to helpe him, & then hee said, that hee may
be altered, & then payement of his debts, & if hee
of him, that hee should holde him, and consider
giveway from him, & that the Dr. then had
a talk for every fiftie year old man, and
bring the young, and the bold, and come
to him into his study, and hee would let him out
in criss.

at a back door, and then take his party into custody when he was gone ; This part of the plot being so hopefully made, no complaint the Tragedy-Comedy , away goes Sudore to eminent Goldsmith, who had some small knowledge of his Doctor and wished an audience, —
 —— showing such a desire of compensation,
 —— tells him the Doctor resolving
 — to furnish himself with a Coach and Plate, de-
 — ficed him these ; this done, with such a fitch
 — about, that's much Plate as you will a
 — hundred pounds, or upwards ; The Goldsmith
 — not doubting but to have a good customer readily con-
 — sidered, and away goes Sudore and the
 — young Brunrice ; being arrived at old Doctors
 — Hall, he takes the Plate, pretending to carry it
 — up to the Doctor and his Lady ; and when he
 — young and well turned out there, when
 — leaving the place undiscovet'd under his cloak,
 — tellin the Doctor, he had brought the King
 — and Queen him to see the best of his skill up-
 — on him, and he would thin upon him again on
 — the morrow, and swiftestow at the back door ;
 — The Doctor very gheevly comes down, and ha-
 — ving taken a serious view of his party, takes
 — wallet

him

him by the Waſt; and begins to Thumb
theſe with the Youngeſman wondring at his
action, begins to lif him up to the Greate
Bench that ſat before him. At ſome ſtray ſpots
Doctor the Great ſent the boy into the
Chaple fitting him with a black Thong
and ſaying to him, "I am ſure that thou
givſt me no ſubſtitute for the ſtray ſpots
that I have in my hands, and I will give thee ſome
The Boy ſat it harking himſelfe about the
ſteps in going downe the Staircase, ſo ſoon as he cometh
I shall have Mirth enough to be at diſtance from him, I ſhall
ſtridling him follow him, one takes him in his
ordate room, and calling fome of the Servantes
to ſet a blouſing of him gently, and then ſhall
ſtrid his Hair. The Youth made many Reactions
againſt theſe Proceedings, telling while
Man he was, and how, and unto whom he
the same chid, but all in vain, for he was
irritated by diſobedies, facractures, and Effrontery
in his diſtempered Brain, & preſently after he
having Rec'd conuinced from the purpoſe of his
being about to ſet him downe, and to ſtride him
according to the dyes ſight of Aye, torturing him
gladly in many wiles, ſo ill ſtory had almoſt been told
and

Fellow Stark Mad in earnestly; The Gold-smith
Hearing no News of his Return, gets up next
Morning by break of day, and comes to the
Doctor in Quill of Health; And then the Clouds
were opened, & they saith he layed how foole,
they were cheezed, & he was sent to the Tower
and now had son CHAP. V. Who layd a summe
of Soldiers starr being in Newgate for service
of Pris'ry, and by what mische夫 fell ye off.

THough all the Riguries committed by
this Entitl'd Thief, would require a good
lumin, for he was perpetually bigg with some
mischievous design, and his Brains never lay
fallow, unles when he was got into Newgate;
in which Cellidge he had no less then Fifteene
inestates in his residence, and sometimes Con-
demned to dye; Once he got off by the Riches of
Grace another time being Convicted of a Bur-
glary he obtain'd a Parson, a famous one
that he bought off his chancery so cheape
he could not be found guilty, in the chancery
Court; Being Condemned to death he was sent
to the Great Tyburne to off with his life, & Cheape
said for that Sentence he durst not goe thither for fear
all Sessions 22d of July 1610 dying thus compaineing
but

and thereby draw Instrumental in building the World
of Divine Caterpillars that lived as Rapine, and
the Spots of Honest Industry. Some have Report-
ed, That in that service he too much gratified his
private spleen, and charged some Persons undisci-
rately; but that we look upon as all Groundless
Calumny, and therefore shall not barthen his
Memory with those imputations; The rather
for that he had written Faules too many, which he
is now going to answer for at an All-seeing Tri-
bunal, & impudent to think I can run him

CHAP. VII. *Wise men will be wiser, and foolish men foolish.*

Of the last Grand Burglary, and stealing the Lord

Chances were taken twice per day. One stage of the process was
quiescent for 9 days. Once stages of the process were
quiescent for 12 days.

But now the Squid is run to the end of the
Rope, and the final minute approaching
which must be stand to all end. Hartick Pold
feels the last moments, yet like a dying taper to
make a light. But before he expires, he writes
tunes on falling strings. Playing (by his own
nockwhat means) got the knowledge, where the
Lord

Lord High Chancellours Servants usually laid the Mace and Purse, those glorious Insignia or Badges of that illustrious Office, without weighing the danger, or considering the consequence, he resolves to make himself Master of that tempting booty; To this purpose he with two of his confederates about five a clock one Sunday morning were observed by one that Evidenc'd it at their Tryal to be hawking up and down that street, waiting as 'tis supposed an opportunity for putting their design in Execution; but missing of it then, they defer'd the business till the Tuesday night following, and then 'tis thought, getting by a Ladder of ropes into his Lordships Balcony, and thence upon a Ledge jutting out of the wall, to the Window of the Closet where those things were reposited, they broke a pane of Glafs, and so opened the Casement, and took away the precious, but fatal prize, valued in the Indictment at One hundred and forty pounds; and being extreamly over-joyed at the success, proceeded to that height of insolence and vanity, that as themselves since confess, coming over Lincolns-In-Fields, Sadler would needs have one of his confederates

federates bear the Mace openly on his shoulder, and the other the Purse before him, whilst he with Hat cock'd, and arms a Kembo, walked after it in a strutting Grandeur ; But these magnificent triumphs were short-liv'd ; 'Tis a saying ; *No less true than antient : quod per dere vult Deus, dementat prius* ; When Divine vengeance resolves to chastize wicked men, it first infatuates them ; so it proved in this case ; for Sadler and one other of his Associates repairing to a Lodging in Knight-Riders-Street, where they had formerly lain ; Taking off the Fringe and Jewels from the purse, scattered several small peices of the Gold about the Chamber, and though they had laid up the greatest part of the Mace in the closet, and taken away the Key of it, yet the Womans daughter of the house going up on the Fryday following when they were all abroad, observing the floor strewed with these illustrious spangles, and withal finding three or four small scattered pearls, could not forbear the curiosity of putting back the closet-lock with a small knife, where to her amazement she found the Mace ; the Coronet or upper part whereof, her Ignorance mistaking for the Royal Diadem,

dem, she passionately calls up her Mother, telling her, *The Gentlemen had got the Kings Crown in the Closet*; but the good woman advising with one of her neighbours, was soon informed of my Lords loss, and as speedily gave him Intelligence what she had found; Hereupon a Watch being set, a woman coming to Inquire for them was first taken, and next day the three men, Sadler being apprehended by a single man unarm'd in the Street without the least resistance.

CHAP. VIII.

Of his Condemnation, Carriage in Prison, and Execution.

AT his Tryal he appeared very gay in cloaths, and no less impudent in his behaviour, yet confessed the fact; and when condemned, flung his Hat into Court, and his Wigg another away; acting like one Distracted; In person he seemed to have little sense of his desperate condition, but gave himself to Drinking of Sack; and 'tis said, being called from his cups to come to prayers, swore the Parson must stay till his Glass was out; In a Word his end was not unsuitable to his life: To whose unhappy Memory, a Friend of mine desired this following Epitaph.

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Epitaph.

EPITAPHE

*Here Sadler lies. Reader! come not too near,
The nimble Ghost may pilfer still, we fear.
His Presence Fifteen times did Newgate grace,
But Dy'd Opprest with a too Ponderous Mace
So us'd to make all Doors before him flye,
His very Coffin decades a Burglary,
And Plutes fears hel Jilch his Treasures.*

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